

While I am served by Sprint rather than a Bell Co., I believe that the any reduction in competition will be to the detriment of competition and fairness. My concern about all of these proposals is that ISP's that gave more rural parts of the company access will be driven out of the market by sharp business practices engaged in by the big boys. The LECs operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. The competition that is the major aspect of all the deregulation acts and particularly of the Telecommunications Act should be encouraged, not threatened. Competition benefits consumers not only in the area of price for service but in the nature of the local ISP's that provide readily accessible advice and service. As the late Henry Howell put it, "Keep the Big Boys honest."

Sincerely,

Nanalou W. Sauder